[English]

COMMUNICATIONS

TELEVISION PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, with advancing technology allowing the proliferation of channels, there is a danger of further decreasing the ratio of the few existing child-oriented TV programs. Would the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications voice the recommendations of the Commission of the Year of the Child that priority be given, if necessary, to creating a special channel on a national network to provide children with programs which would aid their education, expose them to new cultures, provide appropriate entertainment, and so fill a vacuum that exists in the broadcast spectrum relating to young people?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member's suggestion is an excellent one. I would like to tell him that there is a children's social programming service operating on some 15 cable systems at the present time. It is the Galaxy system which is a four-hour per day, seven-day a week service provided to the Canadian satellite network by the Ontario education and communications authorities. In February of this year the CRTC heard an application by CSN for a specialized channel which would have included Galaxy. This request was turned down because the CRTC felt there were a number of policy issues associated with that request that have to be examined further. However, in the denial the CRTC did encourage further applications along the lines of the Galaxy proposal.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT MINISTER VISIT RESTIGOUCHE RESERVE IN QUEBEC

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development relating to a motion under Standing Order 43 raised earlier by the hon. member for Cariboo-Chilcotin, having to do with a very difficult situation at the Restigouche Reserve.

The minister will know there has been a representation to the Prime Minister by at least the president of the Union of New Brunswick Indians, and probably other native groups, requesting that the minister visit the Restigouche Reserve. Would the minister indicate if he has any plans to visit, either personally, or have senior officials of his department visit the reserve today or this weekend? While he is answering I wonder whether he could also tell us if there were any members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police involved in any way in the incidents that began last week at the Restigouche Reserve, and would he outline to us the extent of the federal presence now in monitoring the situation existing at that reserve?

Oral Ouestions

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, in answer to the Leader of the Opposition I would say that as of very, very recently the Quebec region of my department has been in touch with the Quebec government requesting in effect the adoption of a mediating role, and requesting that government to sit down with the Indian leadership at Restigouche to see if a solution can be worked out.

In a few minutes I will be meeting with Sykes Powderface of the NIB. He was endeavouring to see me this morning but I was tied up at another meeting. We will endeavour to see if there is anything further that I or my department might be able to do to resolve this really very unfortunate situation.

May I say as far as the RCMP are concerned that I have examined the situation. The RCMP were not directly involved. This was mainly an operation, as the Leader of the Opposition perhaps knows, of the QPP. There were some officers adopting a watchdog role, if you like. There were some RCMP officers on the fringes, so to speak, especially on the New Brunswick side, but as far as I am aware at the moment, they did not get involved directly.

NATIONAL SECURITY

COMPOSITION OF 1946 COMMITTEE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General who has of late been interested in documents. He will know that as far back as 1945 and 1946 there was a committee set up by the then Privy Council to examine the problems arising out of the Gouzenko affair. I am wondering whether he is able to indicate the composition of that committee and whether it kept records of its meetings.

[Translation]

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I should like to take note of that question. I will answer at the earliest opportunity.

[English]

AVAILABILITY OF COMMITTEE'S RECORDS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, this was a committee of officials to advise the government of the day on matters arising out of the Gouzenko revelations. While the minister is doing that, I wonder if he would find out whether records of these meetings were kept and are intact, and why those records are not now available for public view?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I will try to answer that question, but I should take the occasion to point out that until recently there was no systematic recording system of documents within the Privy Council Office or of meetings at the level the hon. member suggests, so it may well